

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated December 11, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the Application.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-10 are amended including for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as changing "characterized in that" to —wherein—, correcting typographical errors and amending dependent claims to begin with "The". By these amendments, claims 1-10 are not amended to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Applicants furthermore reserve the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for several reasons identified in the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that each of the identified claims is modified to cure the noted issues. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-10 are in proper form and it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,576,864 to Krautter ("Krautter"). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-19 are allowable over Krautter for at least the following reasons.

Krautter shows a roofing application wherein a non-water soluble adhesive is deposited over a plastic base to adhere a water spreading layer to the plastic base. Krautter's water spreading layer

is directed to a layer to avoid a formation of droplets on ceilings of greenhouses, pool enclosures, etc., due to condensation (see, Col. 1, lines 13-26). It is respectfully submitted that the coating of Krautter may not be suitably applied onto "an interior surface of a steam-generating device" as required by the claims of the present application. It is respectfully submitted that an application over an interior of a steam-generating device is more than a mere statement of intended use. As may be readily appreciated, a coating that may be suitably applied to an interior portion of a steam-generating device requires different properties than a coating that is applied to a plastic base, such as the plastic sheeting material of Krautter (see, col. 2, lines 52-64).

Further, Krautter teaches a plastic coating suitable for a plastic sheeting. Accordingly, Krautter does not teach a first coating that is thermally insulating.

It is respectfully submitted that the coating of claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Krautter. For example, Krautter does not disclose or suggest, a coating that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis provided) "[c]oating for an interior surface of a steam-generating device, comprising a first layer deposited on the interior surface and a second layer deposited over the first layer, wherein the first layer is essentially impermeable to water and is thermally insulating" and the second layer is hydrophilic" as recited in claim 1. Krautter teaches a coating for a plastic sheeting that is not suitable for an application over an interior surface of a steam-generating device and certainly does not show a thermally insulating first layer.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Krautter and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2-19 depend from claim 1 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims.

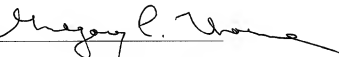
For example, Krautter does not disclose or suggest "wherein the second layer comprises a phosphate glass" as recited in claim 5, nor "wherein a thickness of the first layer is between 30 and 100 μm and that of the second layer is between 10 and 25 μm " as recited in claim 9, nor "wherein the first coating is selected to adhere to a metal surface of the steam-generating device" as recited in claim 11, nor "wherein a composition of the first layer and the second layer is substantially similar and wherein properties of the first and second layers are determined by applying a different technique to deposit each of the first and second layers" as recited in claim 12 (in Krautter, different compositions are shown for the adhesive and water spreading layer).

Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Gregory L. Thorne, Reg. 39,398
Attorney for Applicant(s)
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THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP

Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101